

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

YOUR WEEKLY BIRD 16

December 24, 2023

Pictures by Benita Fishbein

Cedar Waxwing

Cedar waxwings are, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful birds we see here in the northeast. They are sleek and elegant, with a stylish crest, a tail tipped in yellow, and a dark mask outlined with white. Just gorgeous! They are social birds, often seen in flocks, calling in their distinctive high-pitched whistle. It's this whistle that usually alerts us to their presence. Then begins the often vain search for them. It's always amazing to me that an entire flock of these striking and not-so-tiny birds can disappear into a tree, invisible, until they decide to fly out. Their preferred food is fruit, and they can sometimes be seen sitting in trees gobbling down fruits whole. In summer, they also eat insects caught on the wing or gleaned from branches.



This past summer, on one of the MBC Wednesday walks, we were watching a group of cedar waxwings moving around in the pines when one of them shocked us all by popping into a nest and staying there. What a thrill! Here you can see a bit of her tail sticking out from the nest.



If you would like to see your photographs highlighted here, send one or two pictures with a short paragraph to: [Sandy Sorkin & Rick Wright at MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com](mailto:SandySorkin&RickWright@MontclairBirdClub100@gmail.com).



Southwest Wings

